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PAPERS
IN
COLONIES AND TRADE.

No. I.

CACHEMERE-ANGORA GOAT.

The GOLD ISIS MEDAL was presented to WM. RILEY, Esq. of Euston Square, for his importation from France of several select specimens of the Cachemere-Angora Goat, for the purpose of introducing this very valuable breed of domestic animals into the Colony of New South Wales, in which Mr. Riley is the proprietor of a considerable estate.

SIR, *Euston Square, 26th March, 1832.*

I HAVE much pleasure in now forwarding, for the information of the Committee of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, agreeably to your desire, a sketch of the origin and properties of the new race of Cachemere-Angora Goats, with a statement of the object my father has in view in purchasing them ; and I at the same time request that I may be permitted the honour of presenting to the Society's Museum the accompanying case of samples of the down of the original cross, of the various generations, and of the two primitive breeds.

The Committee having considered these animals of sufficient interest to induce their expressing an intention of seeing them, I beg to suggest that those gentlemen will do so as early as may be convenient, as the goats are now dropping the greater part of their down—the latter end of this month being the period for its ultimate fall; and they have this week already commenced kidding, which will enable them to see the seventh generation.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A. AIKIN, Esq.

WILLIAM E. RILEY.

Secretary, &c. &c.

Minute of the origin and properties of the new race of Cachemere-Angora Goats, with a statement of Mr. Riley's views in purchasing a small herd of them.

Many years a resident in New South Wales, and having, in 1825 and 1828, transported to that territory two flocks of the finest Saxon sheep procurable throughout Germany, my father had also long contemplated introducing there the celebrated Cachemere goat, anticipating that the fulfilment of his views would, in proving advantageous to himself, become also of ultimate benefit to the Colony; in which expectation he has been encouraged from the results which have attended the importation of the Saxon breed of sheep into their favoured climates,—the wools of New South Wales, and in proportion to their improvement, those also of Van Diemen's Land, being now eagerly purchased by the most intelligent manufacturers, in preference to those of equal prices imported from any part of Europe.

With this object in view, he subsequently, during an

agricultural tour on the continent, directed my attention to the Cachemere flocks of M. Ternaux ; and in October 1828 I met this distinguished man at his seat at St. Ouen, where he preserved the élite of his herds. The animals were a mixture of various sizes and colours, from a perfect white to brown, with scarcely any stamped features as if belonging to one race exclusively. They were covered with long coarse hairs, under which so small a quantity of short soft down was concealed, that the average produce of the whole collection did not exceed 3 ounces : under, therefore, these unfavourable promises, my father deferred for a time his intention of sending any of them to Australia.

I was then advised, by the Viscomte Perrault de Jo-temps, to see the stock of M. Polonceau at Versailles, he having, by a happily selected cross, succeeded in increasing the quantity and value of the qualities of the Cachemere goat beyond the most sanguine anticipations. This gentleman is *ingénieur en chef* to the French government ; and, in consequence of his enlightened taste for agricultural pursuits, was also honoured with the directorship of the *ferme modèle* at Grignon. He became among the first to purchase a chosen selection of the original importation of the Cachemere goat from M. Ternaux ; and some time after, seeing at one of the estates of the Duchesse de Berri an Angora buck, with an extraordinary silkiness of hair, having more the character of long, coarse, but very soft down, he solicited permission to try the effects of an union with this fine animal and his own pure Cachemeres. The improvement even in the first drop was so rapid, that it induced him to persevere ; and when I first saw his small herd, they were then in the third generation, from the males produced solely

by the first cross. The unwillingness, however, of M. Polonceau to part with any number of them at this period (the only alienation he has made from the favourite products of his solicitude being two males and two females to the King of Wirtemberg, for the sum of 3,400 francs), caused my father to again postpone his intentions until my return from the Australasian Colonies; judging that M. Polonceau would probably be then enabled to dispose of a sufficient number, and that the constancy and properties of the race would by that time be more decidedly determined.

On my arrival in England, at the close of 1831, he again recurred to his favourite project of introducing these animals into our colonies,—for which purpose I went to France with the intention of purchasing a small flock of M. Polonceau, should I find all his expectations of the Cachemere-Angora breed verified; which having perfectly ascertained, I at length succeeded in persuading M. Polonceau to cede to me ten females in kid and three males; and I fortunately was able to convey the whole in health to London, with the intention of proceeding, as speedily as possible, with them to Port Jackson, looking sanguinely forward, not only to their rapid increase, but also to crossing the common goats of the country with this valuable breed, in full expectation that they may, exclusive of their own pure down, become thus the means of forming a desirable addition to the already much-prized importations from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. I am led to the conclusion that the latter result may be accomplished, as M. Polonceau, who has tried the experiment with the native goat of France, has obtained animals of the second cross very little inferior to the breed that has rendered his name so distinguished.

He has also crossed the common goat with the pure Cachemere, but only obtained so tardy an amelioration, that it required eight or ten generations to produce a down simply equal to their inferior quantity and quality, when compared to the produce of the Cachemere-Angora.*

Origin and Progress of the new race Cachemere-Angora.

M. Polonceau created the new race of Cachemere-Angora goats in 1822, by crossing the pure Cachemeres imported into France by M. Ternaux and M. Jaubert, under the protection and patronage of the French government in 1829, with the pure breed afterwards introduced into France from Angora.

Since that period he has unremittingly persevered in the improvement so immediately effected, and has proved, during the several years which have elapsed, that an entire satisfactory result in the union of the most essential qualities of down, *abundance, length, fineness, lustre, and softness*, was accomplished by the first cross, without any return having ensued to the individual characters of either of the primitive races; and, in consequence, he has since constantly propagated the produce of that cross among themselves, careful only of preserving animals entirely white, and of employing for propagation those bucks which had the down in greatest quantity and of the finest quality, with the smallest proportion of hair.

* From the opinion generally entertained of their value, and by several eminent manufacturers of the peculiar qualities of their improved down, with the interest they expressed in their intended introduction into the British Colonies, Mr. Riley revisited France, and again induced M. Polonceau to admit of a similar selection from his herd, with also two bucks and two does of the pure Angora race, obtained from the Duchesse de Berri.

In 1826, the “ Société Royale et Centrale d’Agriculture de Paris,” acquainted with the interesting result of M. Polonceau’s flock, being at that time in the third generation, and considering that the down of this new race was more valuable than those of the East, and that it was the most beautiful of filaceous materials known, as it combines the softness of Cachemere with the lustre of silk, awarded him their large gold medal, at their session, 4th of April, 1826, and nominated him a member of their Society in the following year.

In 1827, at the exhibition of the produce of National Industry, the jury appointed to judge the merits of the objects exposed, also awarded him their medal.

At present the animals are in the sixth generation; their health and vigour, the constancy of their qualities, and abundance of their down, without any degeneration, prove that this new race may be regarded as one entirely fixed and established, requiring solely the care that is generally observed with valuable breeds,—that is to say, a judicious choice of those employed for their reproduction. And in such a climate as New South Wales it may be reasonably expected, that the brilliant qualities of their down may yet be improved, as has been so eminently the case with the wool of the Merino and Saxon sheep imported there.

M. Polonceau has goats that have yielded as many as thirty ounces of the down in one season; and he states, that the whole of his herd produce from twelve to twenty ounces: thus shewing the astonishing advantages this new breed has over the uncrossed Cachemere, which never yield more than four ounces, and seldom exceed two ounces each.

M. Polonceau states, that the Cachemere-Angoras

are more robust and more easily nourished than the common goat, and that they are less capricious and more easily conducted in a flock ; and, from the experience I have already had, I find them much more docile than even the sheep. They prefer the leaves of trees, as do all other goats, but they thrive either on hay or straw, or green fodder, or in meadows. They also feed with equal facility on heaths, and on the most abrupt declivities, where the sheep would perish. They do not fear the cold, and are allowed to remain all the winter in open sheds. For the first year or two of M. P.'s experiments, he thought it prudent to give them aromatic herbs from time to time, but during the last six years he has not found it necessary.

He knows not of any particular disease to which they are subject, his flock never having had any. M. P. arranges they should kid in March ; but occasionally he takes two falls from those of sufficient strength during the year.

The down commences to grow in September, and develops itself progressively until the end of March, when it ceases to grow, and detaches itself naturally, unless artificially removed.

To collect the down, M. P. waits the period when it begins to detach itself, and then the locks of down, which separate from the skin with little force, are taken off by hand. The down is taken from the animals every three or four days. In general, it first begins to fall from the neck and shoulders, and in the following four or five days from the rest of the body : the collection is completed in the space of eight to ten days ; sometimes the entire down can be taken off at one time, and almost in an unbroken fleece. The whole of it can also be re-

moved from the animal at one shearing when it begins to loosen. The shearing has the advantage of preserving more perfectly the parallelism of the individual filaments, which much increases the facility of combing and preparing the down for manufacture.

(Signed)

WILLIAM E. RILEY.

NOTICE respecting a Flock of CACHEMERE SHAWL-GOATS belonging to C. T. TOWER, Esq.

In the 46th vol. p. 129, is an account of some Cashmere Shawl-Goats, bred by C. T. Tower, Esq. of Weald Hall, in Essex, from two individuals of each sex imported by Mr. Tower from France, in 1823. These were part of the original flock brought from Persia by MM. Ternaux and Jaubert. In 1828, the date of Mr. Tower's communication to the Society referred to above, the flock at Weald Hall had increased to twenty-seven; and the following extract from a letter, received from Mr. Tower in May last, shews their farther increase, as well as that gentleman's opinion respecting the cross-breed of Cashmere-Angora goats, which is the subject of the preceding communication.

“As to my flock of goats, I have to report most favourably of its increase in point of numbers and good condition. I have now upwards of fifty, and should in fact have had considerably above sixty, had I not lost ten or a dozen early last summer from the injudicious supply given to them, in my absence from home, by the party attending them, of large quantities of vetches, which proved too succulent, and caused a loss to the